
Sampford Courtenay Parish Survey Report 2019



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Sampford Courtenay Parish Councillor



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Summary of key findings / observations

1. Understanding the Parish -

Thanks are given to those who completed the Parish survey and gave their time and thoughts to contribute to this report. We have a total electorate of 504 residing in 250 dwellings. Of these 81 people engaged and had their say, which provides a 32% return from households.

Results show that the demographics of those completing the survey questions -

- ❖ 83% are between 41-85 years old (44% of them are 56-70 years)
- ❖ 65% live within 1 mile of the village centre
- ❖ 34% have lived here for under 10 years while 39% have lived here for over 20 years
- ❖ Majority of those that answered still use landline as a main means of communication
- ❖ 53% of those with internet used wired broadband
- ❖ 47% of those using internet considered services poor or very poor
- ❖ 77% were positive about using emails to increase/enhance communications
- ❖ 74% were positive about reducing use of paper and creating paperless systems

2. Employment and business support -

- ❖ 51% respondents are in work and 43% are retired
- ❖ 70% were positive about small business development in the Parish
- ❖ 72% were positive about small scale industrial workshops
- ❖ 88% were positive about development of tourism in the Parish

3. Community facilities and assets -

The top three positives for living in the Parish were highlighted as -

- ❖ The rural character of the Parish
- ❖ The sense of community
- ❖ The fact that it is a friendly and safe environment
- ❖ 67% identified the local Pubs as a main asset
- ❖ 61% saw the events and activities organised by the Village Hall as very positive

Whilst there were far less negatives, respondents identified that the top 3 were -

- ❖ Speed of traffic
- ❖ Lack of public transport and
- ❖ Car parking

Although not a main option poor internet connectivity was also highlighted as a negative for the Parish both personally and economically.

When considering the other assets and facilities in the Parish -

- ❖ 50% of respondents used the public toilets (albeit the majority infrequently)
- ❖ 63% used the noticeboard either often or infrequently
- ❖ 88% used the Village Hall either often or infrequently
- ❖ Only 4% of respondents said they never used the local pubs
- ❖ 70% used the local footpaths
- ❖ 68% used the Church's and Church Rooms either often or infrequently
- ❖ 68% also used the Parish website and / or Facebook page
- ❖ Only 14% indicated that they used the WDBC garden waste collection service
- ❖ 26% made use of the children's play area and village green albeit infrequently
- ❖ Only 5 respondents indicated that they had ever used the telephone boxes
- ❖ Only 25% of respondents indicated that they had ever used waste bin/dog bin
- ❖ 33% indicated they had used the clothes recycle bins / book exchange at New Inn

When considering what facilities and assets the Parish needed most the respondents indicated the top three as -

- ❖ Village Hall activities
- ❖ Defibrillator and
- ❖ Public toilets

When considering the historic assets in particular the Church Rooms

- ❖ 90% were in favour of developing historic tourism events
- ❖ 83% were in favour of developing the buildings and
- ❖ 38% indicated that they would be happy to be involved in that development

4. Transport and highways -

- ❖ Of those working, training or studying 85% use a private car
- ❖ Of the respondents an average of 77% NEVER used any form of public transport
- ❖ Only 5 respondents had ever used the community transport Scheme
- ❖ 41% indicated they would use a better public transport system
- ❖ 92% would use a train service to Exeter but of those
- ❖ 86% would probably use their car to get to the station
- ❖ The top reasons for not using public transport were:- preferring total flexibility for times to travel and easier to load shopping etc
- ❖ 88% of respondents highlighted at least one traffic problem area in the Parish
- ❖ The top 3 locations were identified as Belstone Corner/Station Road Junction, New Inn roundabout and Sampford Chapple
- ❖ Regarding introducing measures to manage parking in the Parish over 75% disagreed or strongly disagreed to any measures

5. Planning, housing and our environment -

- ❖ 57% believed that individual dwellings in controlled sites were required
- ❖ greatest support was given for conversion of existing buildings then development of less than 10 houses
- ❖ 70% of those responding supported low cost affordable housing
- ❖ 80% responding indicated a requirement for development in the conservation area to match the local style
- ❖ The three top priorities for protecting our environment were protecting roadside Devon Banks, preserving and managing hedgerows for wildlife and reducing pollution, litter and rubbish
- ❖ Respondents agreed most strongly that any developments should use designs in keeping with local properties or the landscape that portray the general character of the area

6. Education, health and wellbeing -

- ❖ In respect of education facilities in the Parish greatest demand would be for adult education classes
- ❖ Of potential subjects local history and first aid were of greatest interest
- ❖ In respect of health services only 14% of the respondents indicated any issue
- ❖ Hospital and dental services were identified as poorest for the Parish
- ❖ Respondents reacted most positively to library facilities and banking advice as services being provided during drop in sessions

7. Social Activities and Parish Amenities -

- ❖ 33% of respondents help to organise activities in the Parish albeit only 12% on a regular basis
- ❖ but 73% participate in events that are arranged in the Parish
- ❖ the most popular events attended are the Parish Fete, Produce Show, Music events and Quiz nights all with over 41% of respondents attending
- ❖ a new film club was of most popular interest to respondents with over 50% being interested or very interested
- ❖ 70% of respondents used the public rights of way in the Parish 45% regularly
- ❖ 73% were aware of the footpath leaflet and 49% had used it
- ❖ Negative comments were received regarding dog fouling on the footpaths

8. Other matters -

Key issues raised include

- ❖ Accident black spots
- ❖ Need for faster broadband
- ❖ Installation of a defibrillator in the village

Within the report various recommendations have been suggested for consideration and feedback. These can also be viewed at Appendix A at the conclusion of the report.

Part of the objectives of this survey is to improve communication which is why we would now seek your feed back on the report and its conclusions and recommendations. Follow the link below to complete your feed back and make comment.

<https://forms.gle/uD32o9LiNvQqFTMw9>

Introduction

Against the political backdrop of greater autonomy for local people through the Localism Agenda it was considered how such opportunities could benefit the residents and visitors to the Sampford Courtenay Parish. With a number of other Councils in the Devon area undertaking research and administration to complete Neighbourhood Community Plans it was felt that a greater understanding of what the public felt or wanted was the best way forward and a decision to undertake a survey to allow Parishioners to have their say was seen as the first step.

Parish overview

Historically Sampford Courtenay stands out as the site of the Prayer Book Rebellion in 1549, with the Manor of Sampford Courtenay and many of the buildings standing in the Parish today being previously owned by Queen Elizabeth I and transferred to King's College Cambridge who held the deeds for 350 years.



The Parish covers a rural area of 13 square miles north east of Okehampton, which includes the hamlets of Honeychurch, Trecott, and Corscombe.

The village and surrounding area of Sampford Courtenay is protected as part of a Historic England Conservation Area and has over 103 listed buildings, scheduled monuments and battlefields within the Parish boundary. This is a great attraction for locals and visitors especially from a tourism perspective. The status of Conservation Area does bring with it protection as well as restriction to development in this part of the Parish.

Methodology

Having completed the last survey over 14 years ago through written surveys only, it was decided to update the process and encourage respondents to complete the survey on-line. However recognising that not everyone in the Parish is comfortable to use or have access to the internet alternative hardcopies were printed and made accessible at prominent local outlets. Additional support was offered at locations in the village centre

and one-to-one support was offered and provided to complete the survey where requested.

The survey was compiled and then advertised through various mediums including -

- ❖ the letter from the Chair of the Parish Council
- ❖ the Open Meeting of the Parish Council
- ❖ advertisement in Roundabout Parish Magazine
- ❖ on the Sampford Courtenay Parish Website
- ❖ through the Sampford Courtenay Parish Council Facebook pages
- ❖ on the village notice boards
- ❖ the Christmas flyer to each household
- ❖ personal encouragement during local organised social events
- ❖ and through the Local press

Objectives of the survey

The objectives were to -

- a) Ensure comprehensive consultation with the community
- b) Identifying new and emerging issues/unmet needs encountered by residents
- c) Enable comparison with issues back in 2004 and update Parish Council priorities

The survey

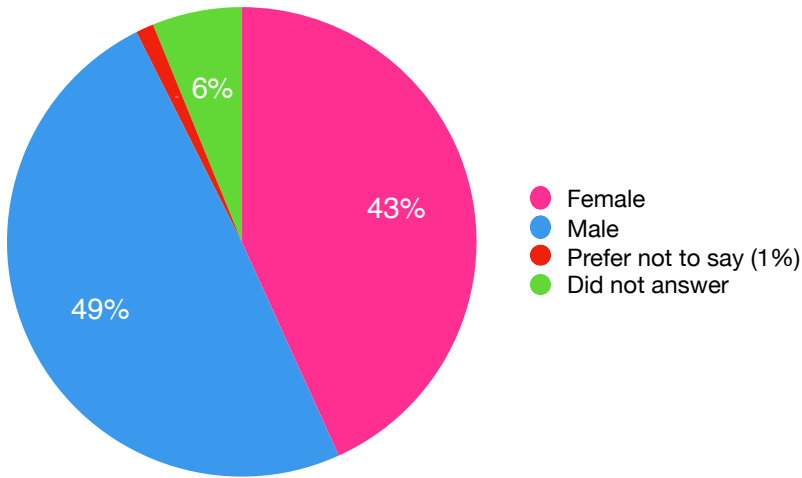
We have a total electorate of 504 residing in 250 dwellings. Of these 81 people engaged and had their say, which provides a 32% return from households. When comparing the demographic of those responding against the 2011 census, this response does provide a broadly representative result when considered against gender and age.

Comparative analysis of previous Parish surveys undertaken in 1992 and 2004 has seen a decline in respondents from 85% to 48%. It would be advantageous to understand the reasons for the decline and update of the Parish Communications Plan to support ongoing future engagements with Parishioners.

Survey Results, Observations & Recommendations

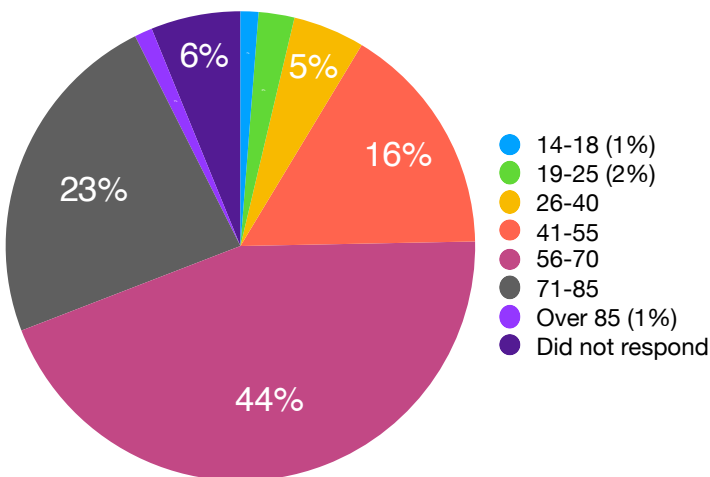
1. Understanding the Parish and its make up

Gender



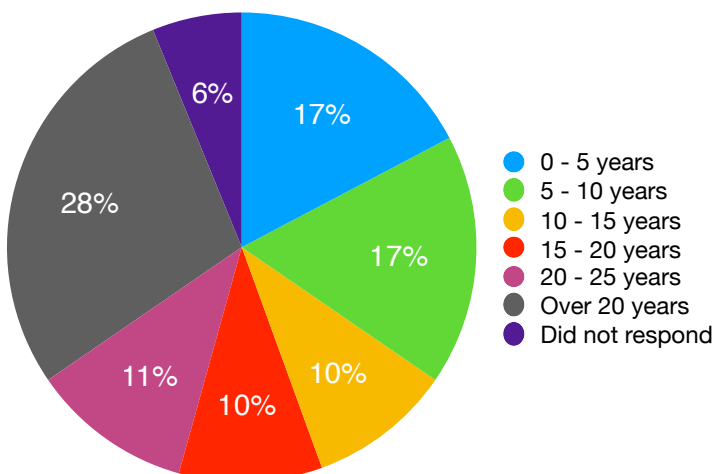
Having a fairly equal response from both men and women hopefully assists to get a diverse understanding of what currently matters to both genders and will help us to understand, particularly in relation to social activities, what is needed/desired for the future.

Age



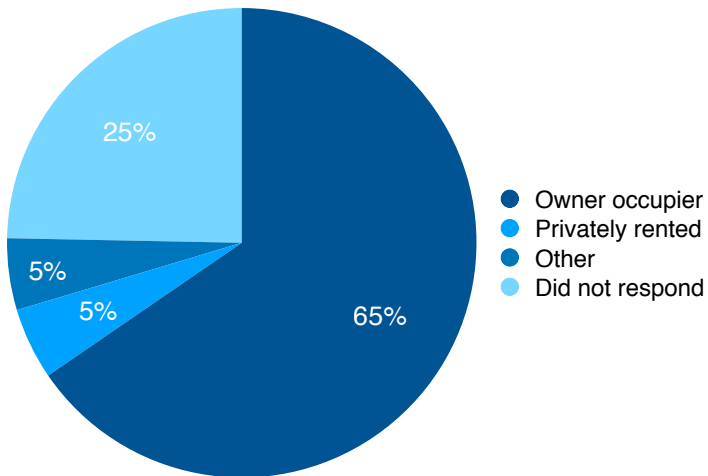
With 44% of residents aged between 56-70 and 43% being retired this provides opportunity to maintain & encourage Parishioners to volunteer their free time to support Parish activities. It is of note that the age demographic has not changed since the 2004 Survey.

No of years living in the parish



Of note is the fact that this is the first Survey to engage with 44% of respondents who have moved to the Parish since the last survey.

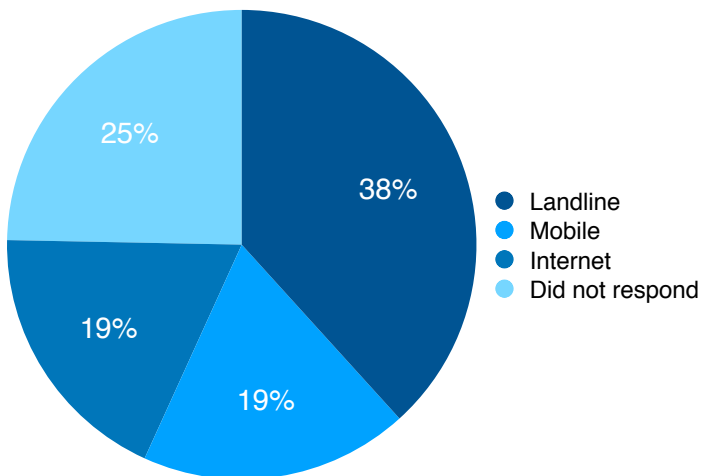
Residence status



In this survey only 5 individuals indicated their home was a second home and lived elsewhere.

67% of respondents highlighted 1 or more environmental/energy saving feature with 63% of those having 3 or more such features.

Primary means of communication

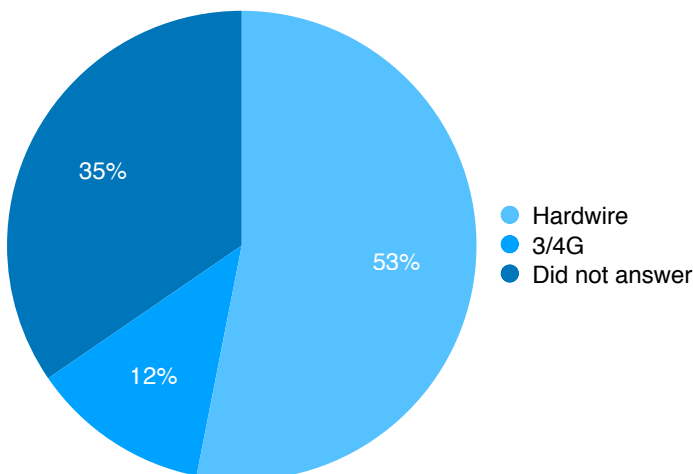


Despite the advancing digital world these results could be seen as inevitable in a rural community with our current age demographic.

Of those using mobiles 33% indicated that they had poor or very poor service. Of those using the internet 27% had poor or very poor service.

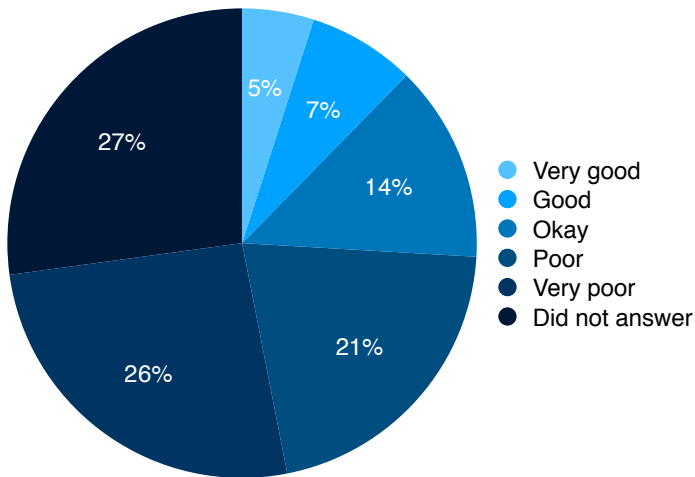
It would be interesting to understand if poor mobile/internet services has a an impact on preferred primary communications within the Parish.

Internet supply access



Of respondents with hard wired internet access (BT customers - as they are the only service provider within the Parish) 74% reported poor or very poor service. Although alternative 4G services have been offered it would be interesting to understand why more Parishioners have not taken up the services of alternative 3/4G companies.

Internet satisfaction



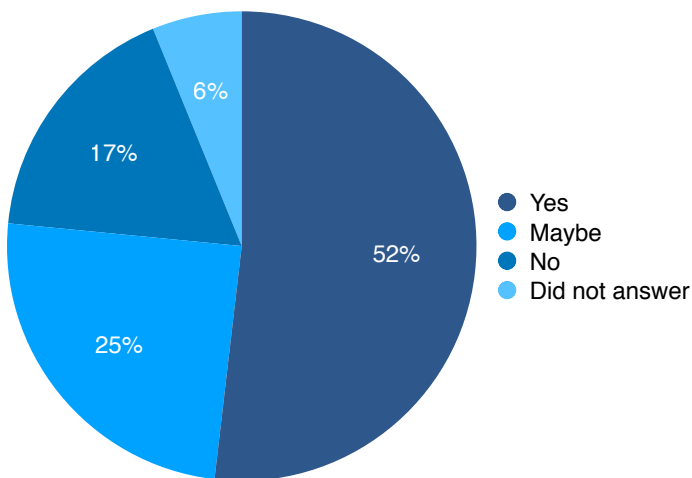
Of those respondents that had taken up contract for 3/4G networks 40% reported a poor or very poor service.

As previously stated it would be of interest to understand the impact of poor internet services both individually and economically.

Recommendation 1

Parish Council to complete a further consultation exercise within the Parish to gather evidence of current needs and future internet requirements in order to set out action to meet those needs both for individuals and businesses. Considering the recent Universal Services Obligation set out by the government¹

Support for communication from Parish via email



A mailing list could be created through the Sampford Courtenay Website. This would support the Parish Council's ambition for creating a paperless system, to improve communication and reduce costs but also assists in supporting the WDBC Environment Strategy to protect, conserve and enhance our natural environment.

This would be a positive step forward and help to bridge a gap that is highlighted with 55% of respondents not receiving information via Facebook.

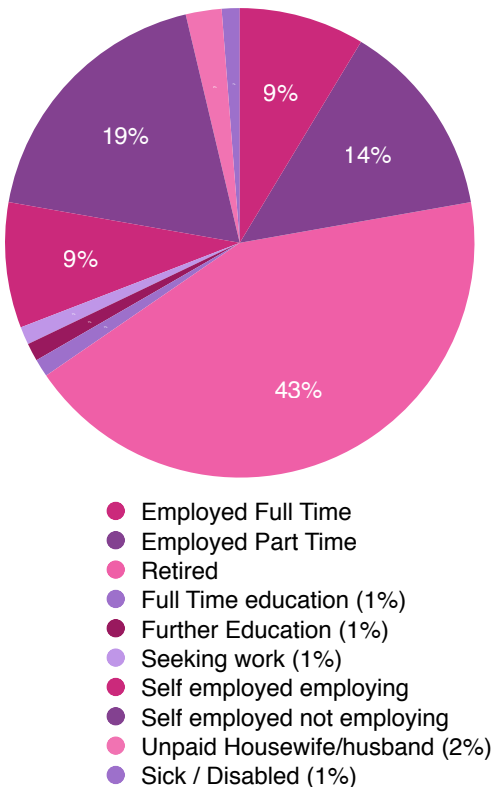
Recommendation 2

Create and encourage use of a mailing list via the Sampford Courtenay Website, that Parishioners can opt into and unsubscribe from. This should be set up with policy to ensure compliance with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and be formulated so that requests from the Clerk / Secretary of all Parish groups can use to facilitate enhanced communications.

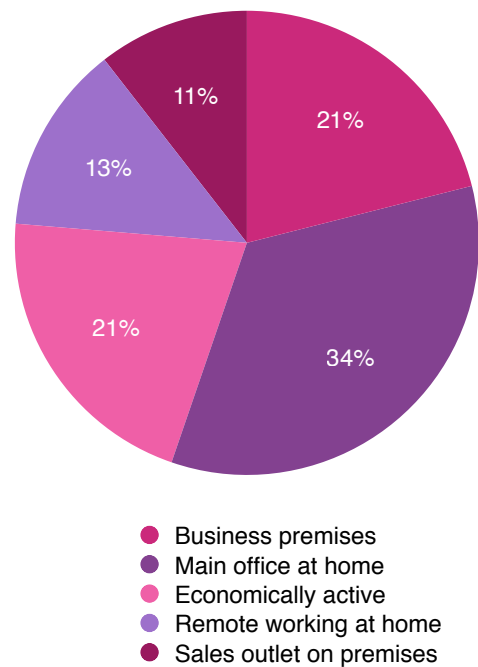
(Note. It should be clearly understood that this is just one way that communications will be enhanced and for those not able to subscribe alternative means of communications

2. Employment

Employment status

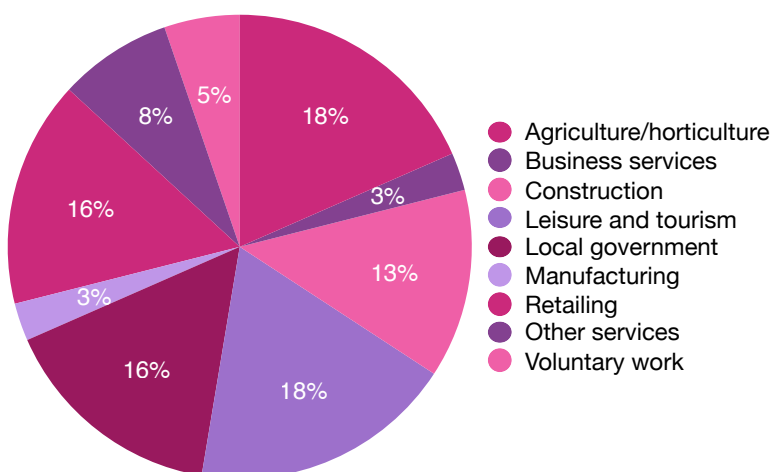


Self employed business activity

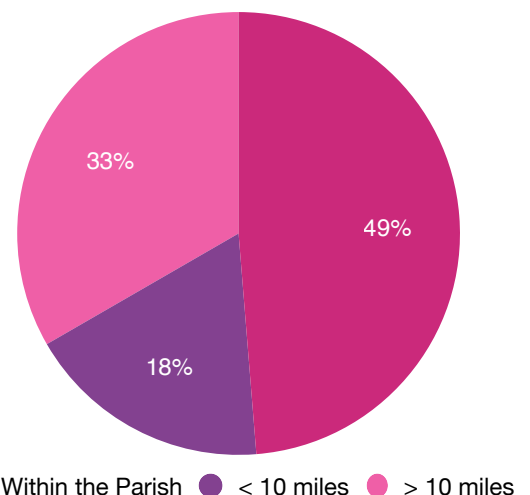


It is of interest that over 23% of respondents either work from home within the Parish or have a remote office at their home. There would be merit (through Recommendation 1) for identifying based on responses in the previous communication whether with improved internet speeds that this number would increase?

Types of employment



Location of employment

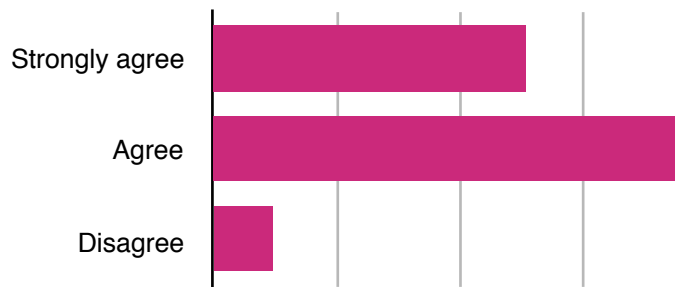


It is interesting to see that leisure and tourism is now equal to agriculture/horticulture, a substantial change from the responses in 2004. This needs to be borne in mind when considering the priorities for investment in community facilities and assets for the future. Comparison for Devon against data collated by Rural Network services 'Economic Fact Sheet²' show a higher proportion of both industries when compared to other rural area's.

2.1 Business support & development

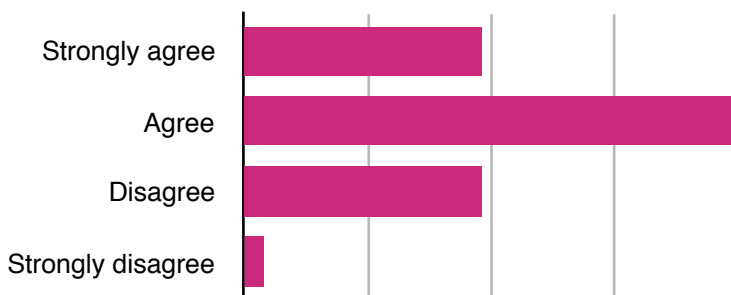
Peoples opinion recorded a significant support for small business development for the Parish particular comments highlighted agricultural diversity as a key requirement. Based on the previous comments it would be important to look at the opportunities for developing Eco or Agri tourism assisting to sustain our agricultural heritage for the future.

Small business development



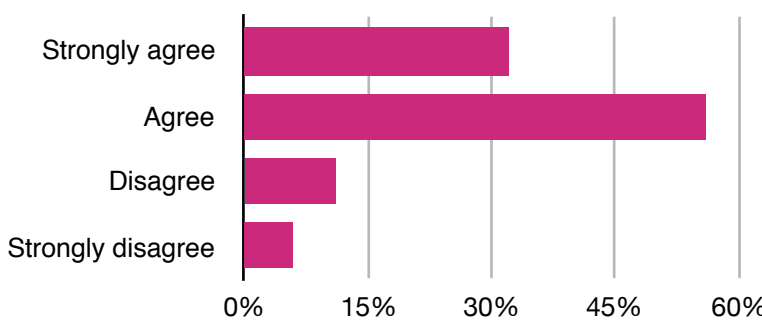
A significant 84% of respondents were positive about small business development. It would be of benefit for the Parish Council to understand the nature and requirements of small business within the Parish to be able to offer the most effective support through Parish Council policies and priorities.

Small-scale industrial workshops



Again significant support for small industrial workshops. All planning whether residential or business are considered in line with the current Parish Council checklist which encompasses the views indicated in Section 5 under planning, housing and the environment. These policies could assist to support small business to develop small work place workshops

Tourism development



When taking into account the strengths of living in the Parish identified in section 3 below, it is quite natural that others would want to visit. With significant support for development in tourism further consultation on how to create future sustainability whilst maintaining the strengths of the Parish needs to take place.

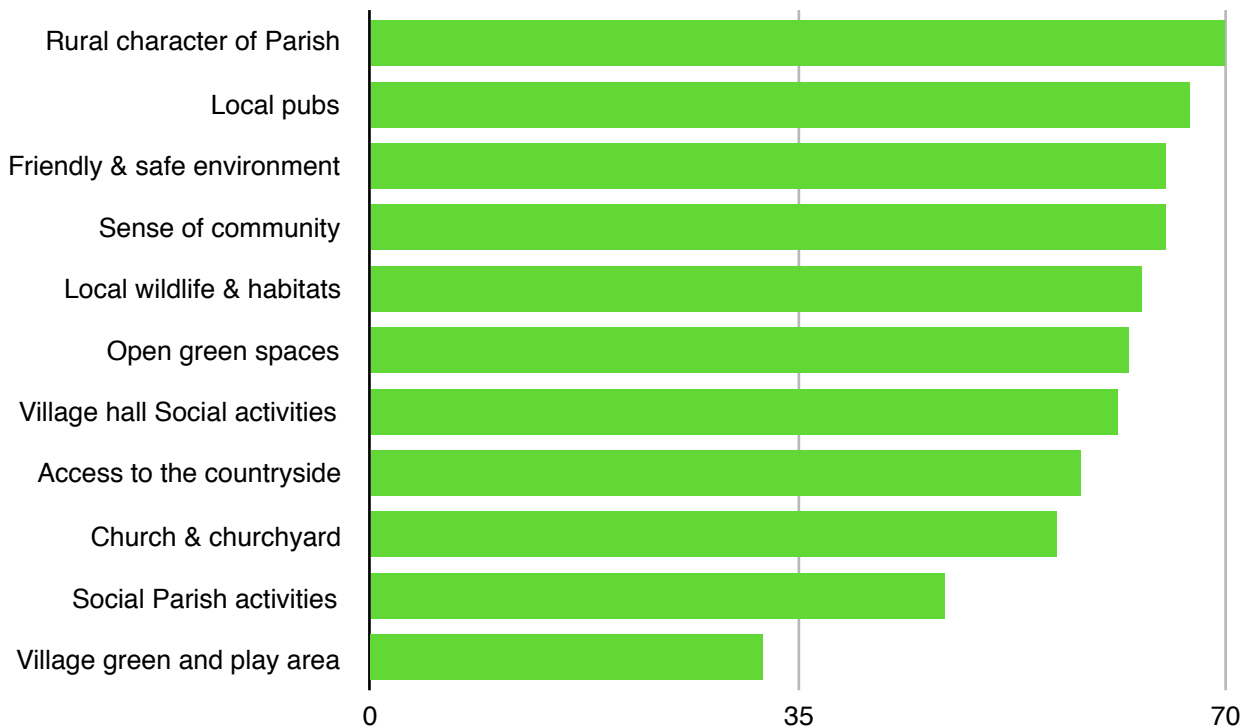
Recommendation 3

Consider a SWOT³ analysis of social, economic and environmental impacts of tourism and small business development in the Parish.

This should be linked to and involve representatives of the Church Committee in respect of their historic assets within the conservation area.

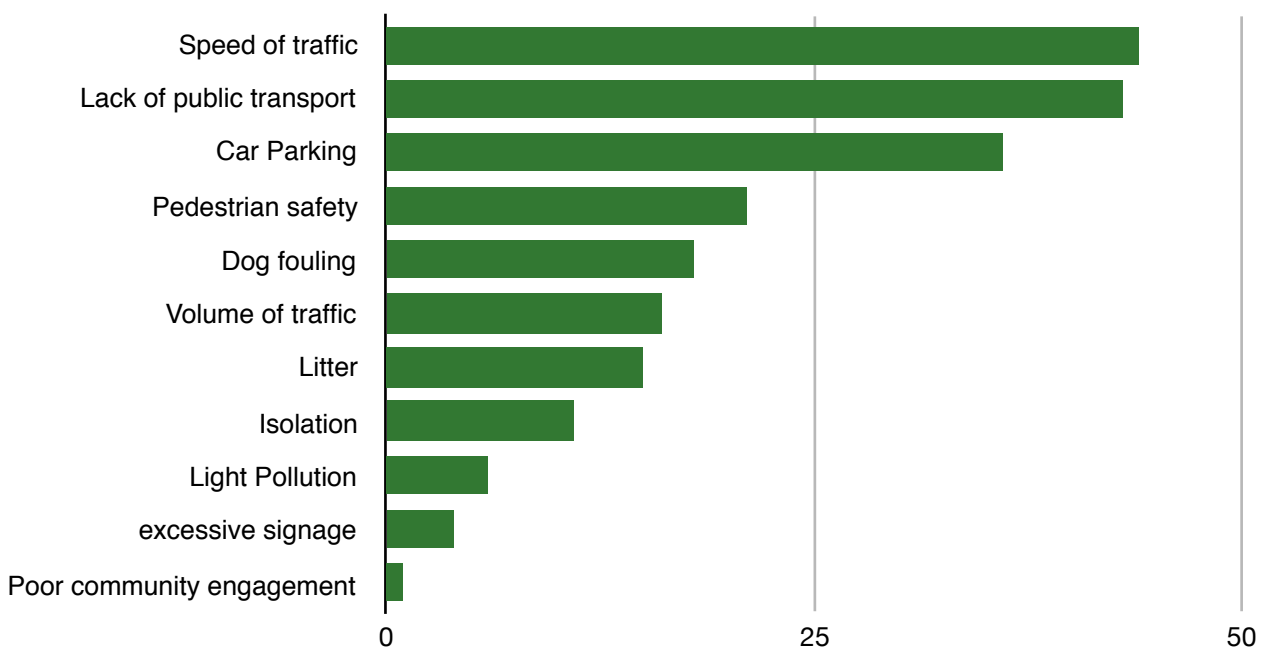
3. Community facilities and assets

Strengths of living / visiting the Parish



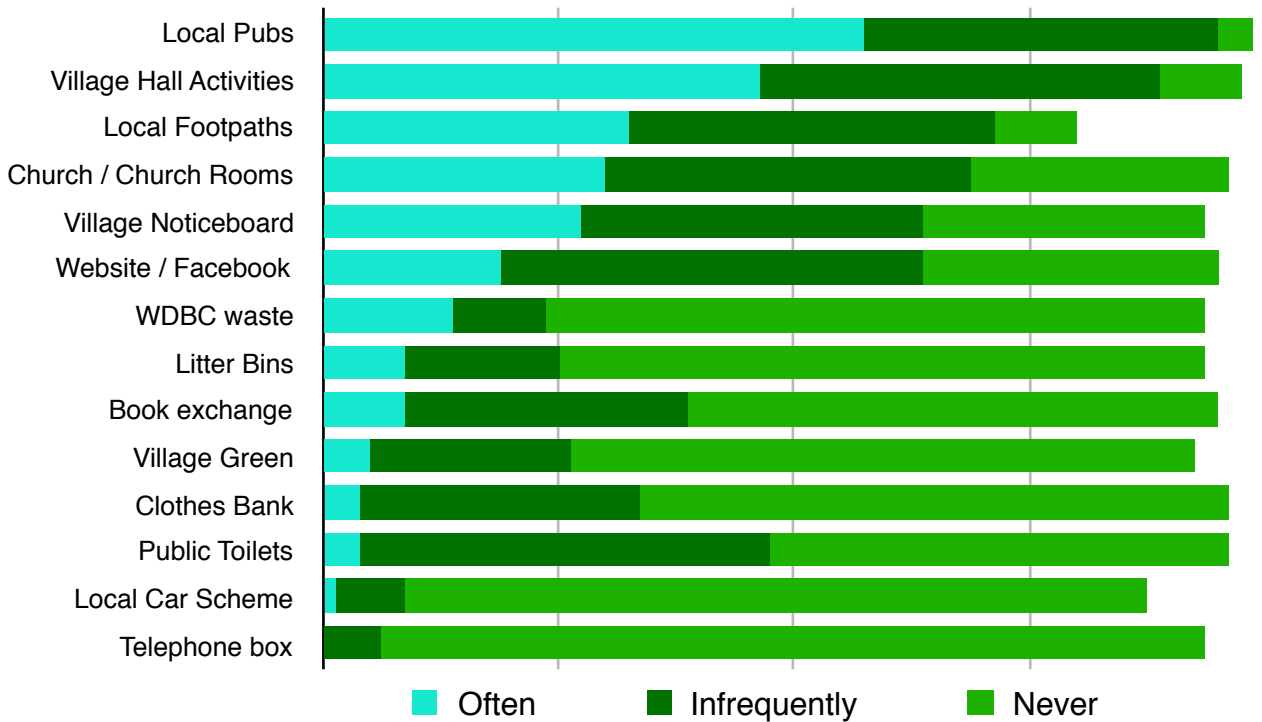
Our landlords at the two licensed premises in the Parish should be commended for their contribution to supporting the Parish, providing services that are recognised by Parishioners as being one of the highest strengths of living or visiting the Parish. As studies have shown now more than ever services provided through rural pubs promote stronger communities and social cohesion.

Weaknesses or negative features of Parish

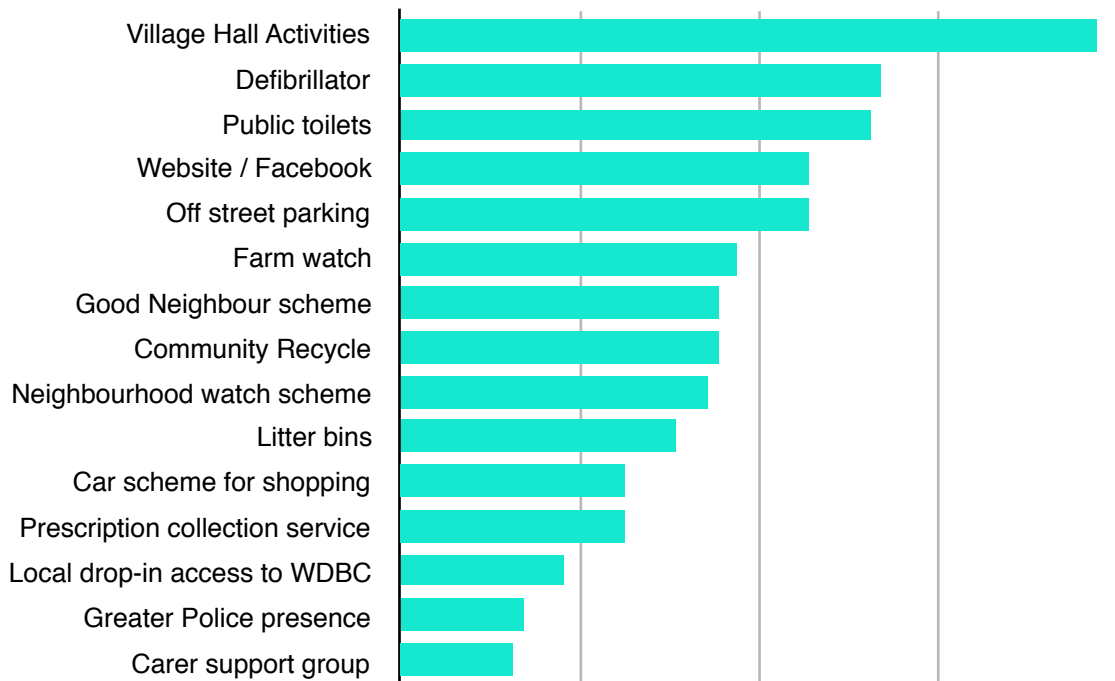


All three of the top issues highlighted as weaknesses or negative features of the Parish are dealt with under section 4.

Use of facilities in the Parish



Facilities recommended for the Parish



It is clear that the organisation of activities/events and the facilities that are provided through the village hall are extremely important to Parishioners and should sit as a priority when considering sustainability and funding for the future.

The provision of defibrillators is also seen as important in the Parish.

Maintenance and development of public toilets continues to be a priority particularly in ensuring provision of facilities that meet the DDA requirements for the public.

Recommendation 4

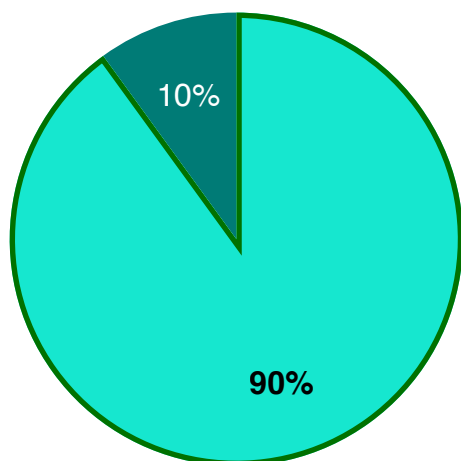
Consider options that create a collaborative approach between all Parish committees and the Parish Council to increase funding opportunities, strengthen sustainability particularly for all community property assets in the Parish.

Recommendation 5

Continue with fund raising initiative through the SCPC Just Giving page and fund raising events to meet the £999 target for a defibrillator by December 2019.

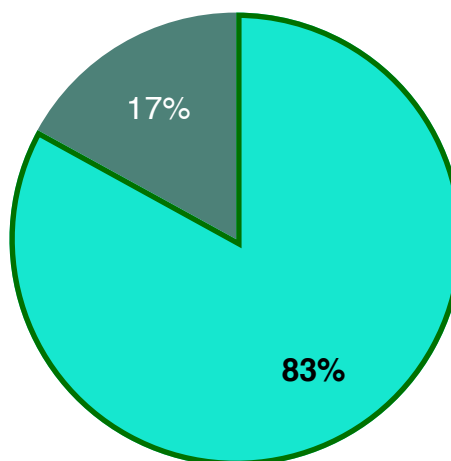
3.1 Historic community assets within the conservation area

Support for Historic Tourism



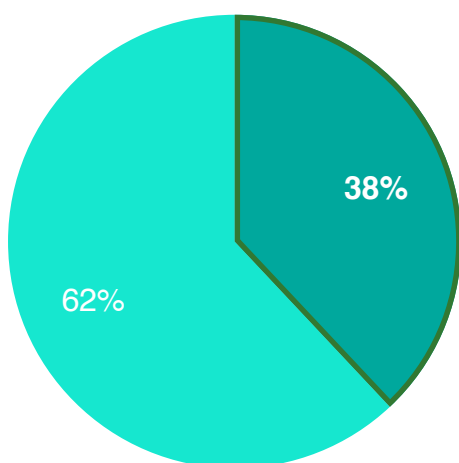
● Yes ● No

Development of the Church Rooms



● Yes ● No

Volunteer for future development project



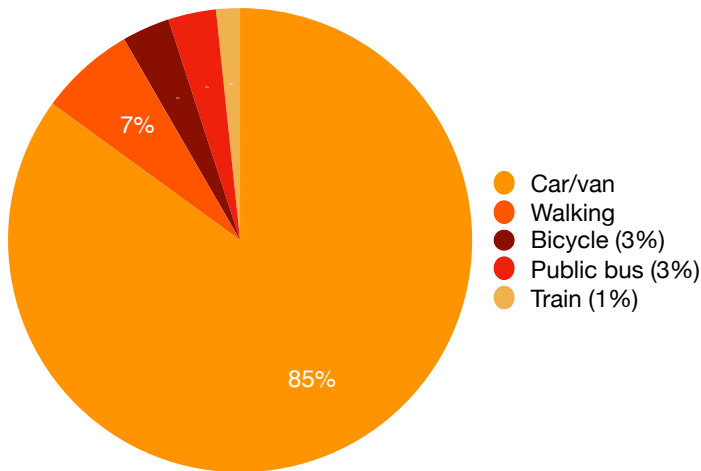
● Yes ● No

With 90% of respondents supporting development of historic tourism and particularly development of the community assets including the historic Church Rooms, further community engagement could be conducted.

It would be useful for research and feasibility reports to be carried out by the Church Committee harnessing the support of the 38% of respondents who indicated a willingness to volunteer in future developments that could then contribute positively to Recommendation 3.

4. Transport and highways

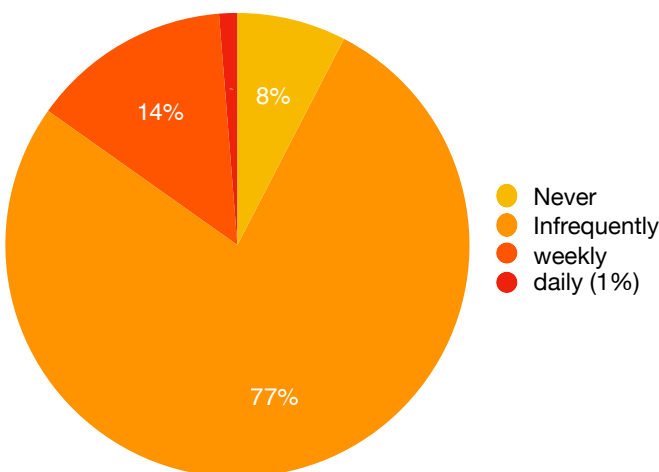
Main means of transport for those in employment or training



It is of significant note that respondents indicated that they would never use alternative public transport services when making other journeys. This would most likely correlate with the reasons indicated below. Although 41% did indicate that they would use public transport if there were better services from within the Parish.

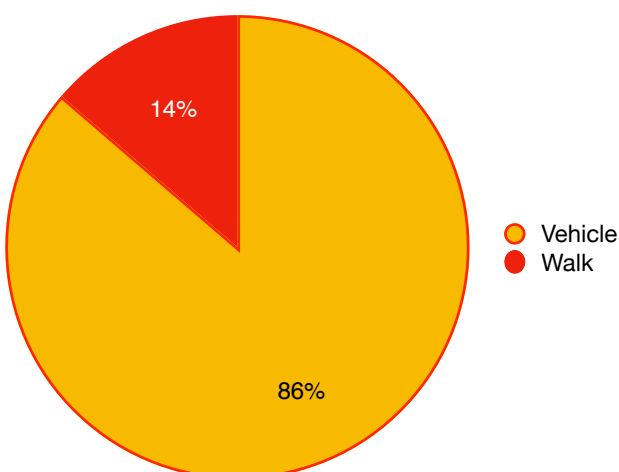
73% of respondents indicated that there was 1-3 vehicles in their households which would in certain locations add to parking congestion.

Frequency of use of planned daily rail service



With the development of Railway services through Oke Rail it is pertinent that respondents did respond positively to the potential increase in use for the rail service when it re-opens. 90% would use the service to get to Exeter albeit infrequently.

Method of transport to the station



With the positive intent to use future rail services relevant arrangements need to be made for parking and road safety which would result from additional vehicles used to arrive at Sampford Courtenay Station. This location is already seen as one of the most dangerous road locations in the Parish but this development could add support for greater road restrictions in the future at the junction and its approaches.

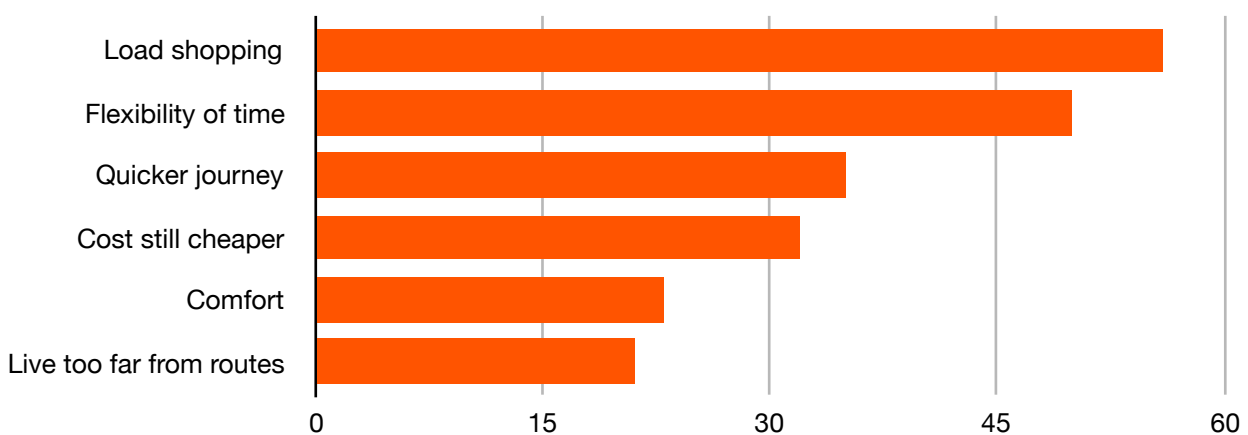
There is concern based on the age demographic and limited public transport routes in the Parish that only 5 respondents used the community transport scheme infrequently. It would be advantageous to understand why and whether there is a lack of knowledge or understanding what the scheme provides particularly when taking into account responses in relation to travel to attend hospital services in section 6 below.

Recommendation 6

Through the Parish Council communications strategy ensure that the Community Transport Scheme is publicised fully to encourage increased use.

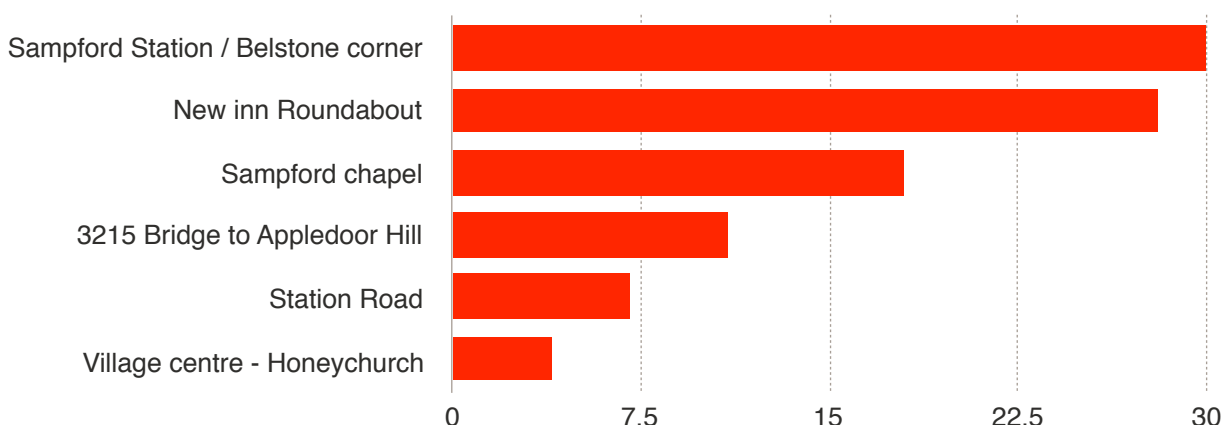
When asked if Parishioners would use an improved public transport system 40% indicated that they would but there are key reasons that dissuade people from giving up use of their private mode of transport.

Reasons that dissuade Parishioners from using public transport



4.1 Road safety issues

88% of respondents highlighted concerns regarding one or more ‘danger spots’ on the Parishes roads. The following were highlighted as the key locations causing concerns. Of note these have not changed since the last survey in 2004.



Recommendation 7

Parish Council to create and lead a Parish road safety group involving Parish volunteers to implement a road safety action plan considering the options and proposals suggested by respondents.

Respondents were asked what they considered the most appropriate traffic safety / calming measures for these danger spots providing the following suggestions.

General locations in the Parish

40 mph throughout the Parish except where currently 30 mph.

30 mile an hour signs that light up when cars approach and give a reading of the speed the driver enjoys the challenge to see if he can get the speed down before the sign lights up.

Keeping hedges trimmed on corners and junctions

Speed bumps

education and flashing speed sign

Regular monitoring by speed cameras. Drivers ignore 30mph speed limit and the roundabout rules because they know there is no chance the junction is monitored by police.

New Inn roundabout

4-way stop rather than giveaway at roundabout

From E-W. Continued use of flashing speed signs

Flashing Speed signs approaching the mini roundabout in both directions (unfortunately ignored by some drivers.)

Rumble strips

New Inn - Speed Camera

Belstone Corner

Calming lines on road and warning lights

The Beeches at Belstone Corner to Appledore park needs much lower speed limit 6 accidents in two months.

40 mph area at Belstone

More obvious signage possibly electric vehicle activated/road surface changes or markings/30mph repeaters.

A slow or bends sign might help.

Chicanes at belstone corner

Sampford Chapple

30mph limit signs

Mobile solar LED signs;

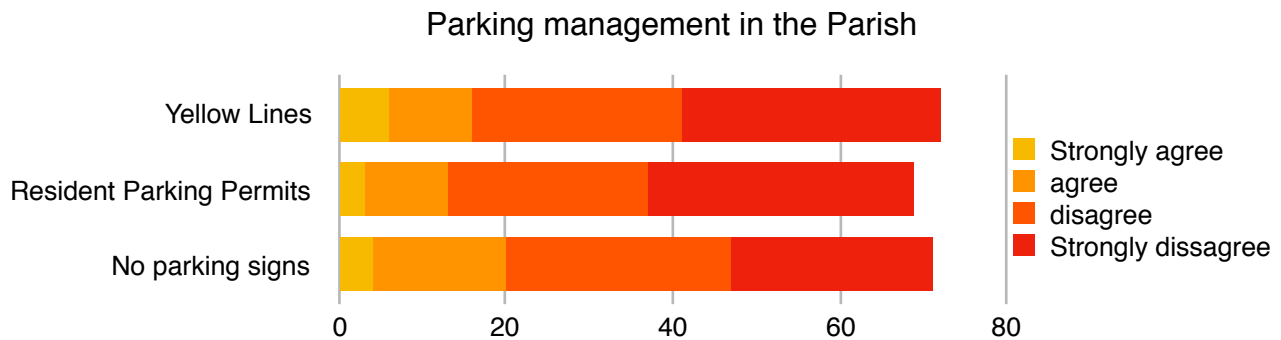
Scarecrows wearing yellow jackets & holding clip boards.

sleeping policemen on A3072 approaching Sampford Chapple from Exbourne.

Village area

20 mph instead of 30 mph through the Village.

Parking in certain parts of the Parish is recognised as problematic and respondents were requested to give views on measures that could be considered to manage the problems.



This area of the survey raised concerns that the Parish would be seen as intolerant of vehicles and based on the response regarding the need or preference to use a private car for the reasons highlighted, vehicles were clearly a necessity in our rural Parish.

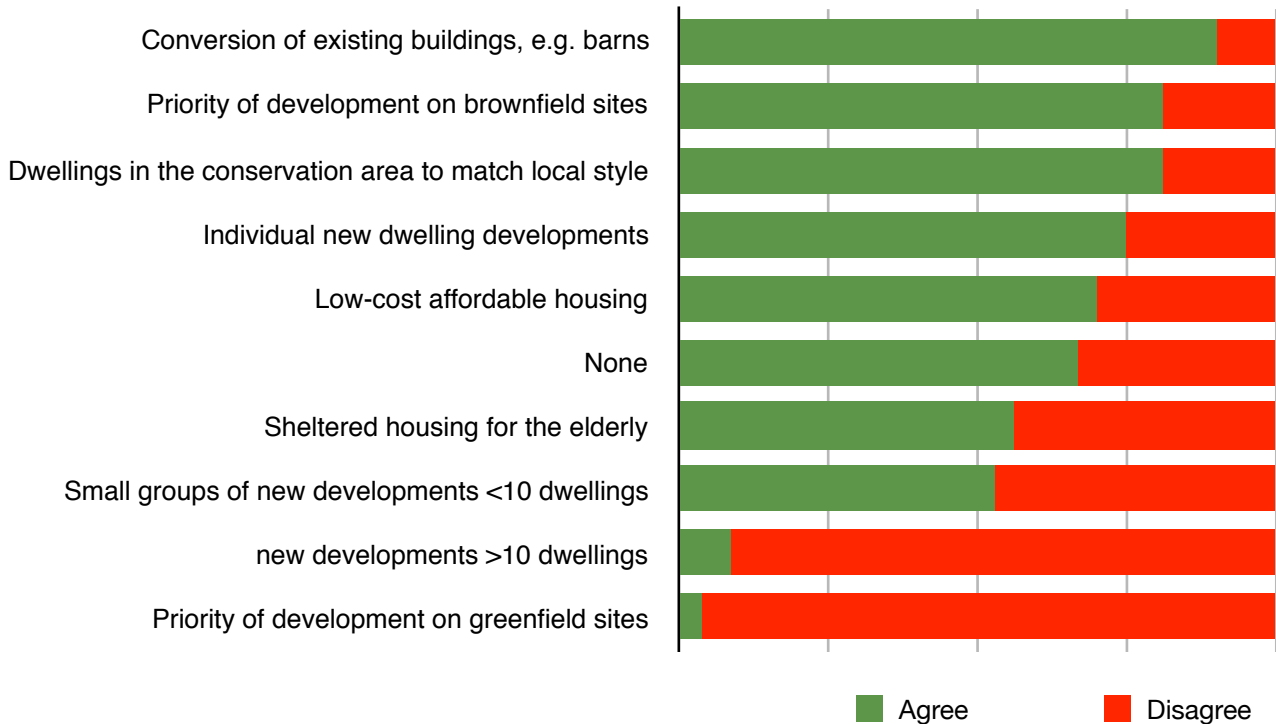
There was a view that the congestion of private parked cars helps slow traffic in the village but some additional village parking would be useful particularly for those with multiple business vehicles, as congested parking can detract from the attractiveness of the village and deter visitors.

Comments highlighted that education was a better solution rather than restrictions. Key issues included greater awareness of the dangers of parking inconsiderately restricting emergency services access in the centre of the village, or on the approaches to the mini roundabout next to the New Inn (especially by those waiting for school buses). This issue should be picked up as part of Recommendation 7.

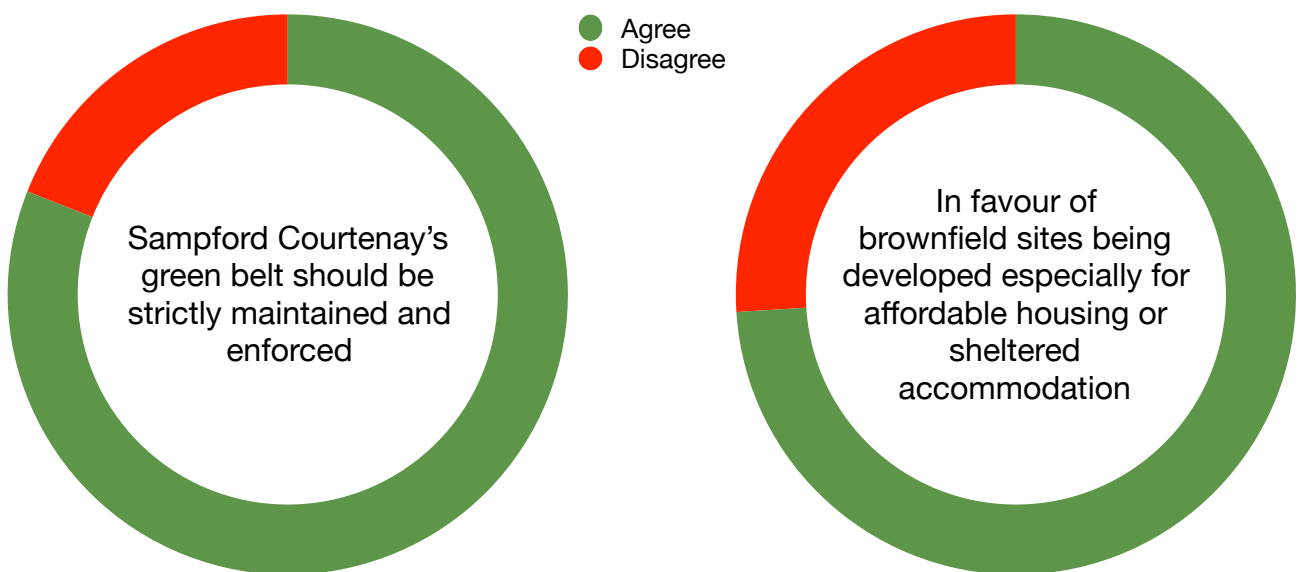
5. Planning, housing and our environment

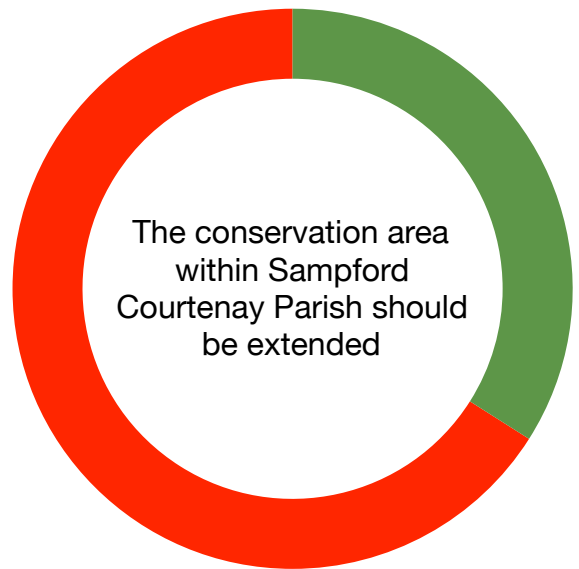
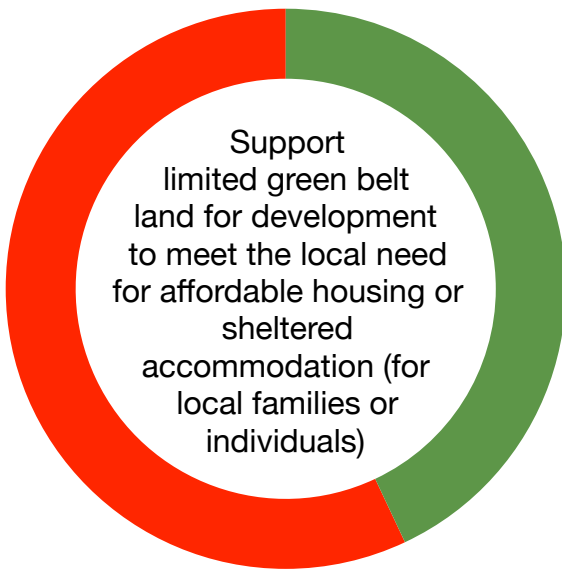
Respondents were asked what type(s) of housing development would be acceptable in the Parish to meet future needs for the next 10 years?

Not all respondents answered each question but the results show the % that agreed or disagreed within each category

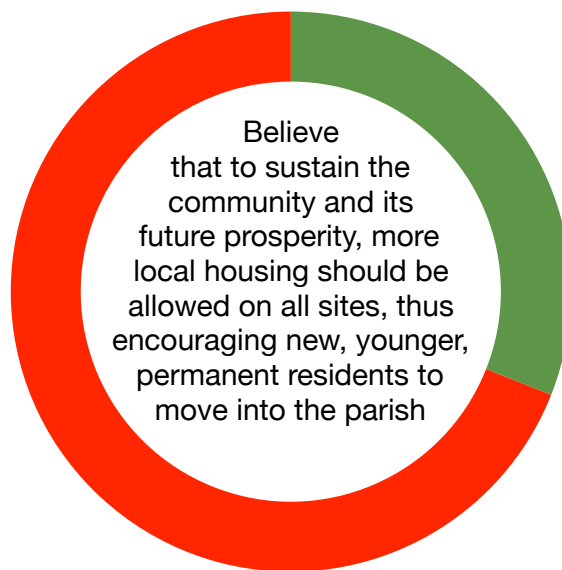


And then which if any of these statements did they agree or disagree with.





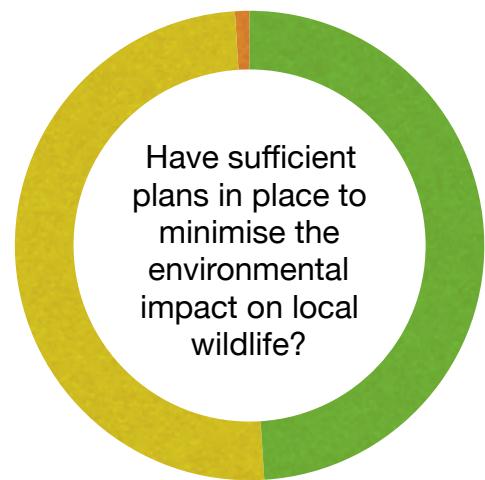
● Agree
● Disagree

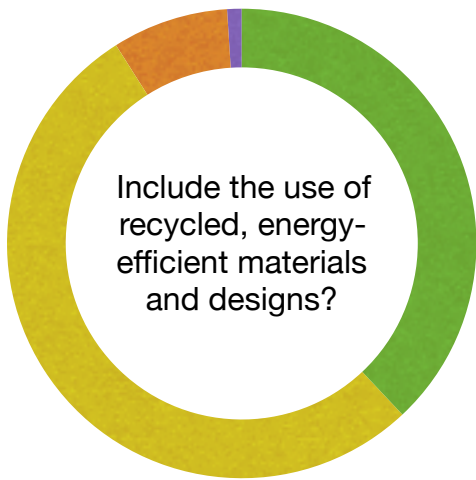


Respondents were asked to consider whether all new developments in the Parish should

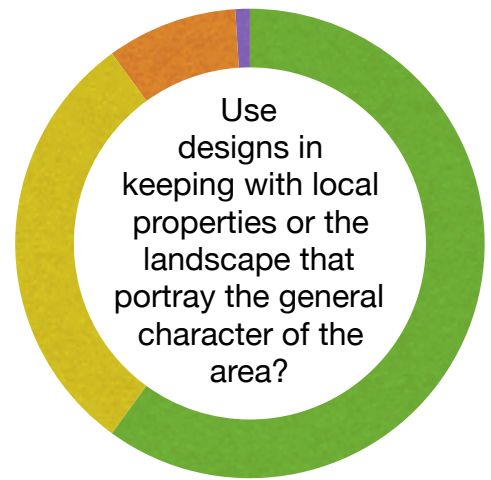


● Strongly agree
● Agree
● Disagree
● Strongly disagree

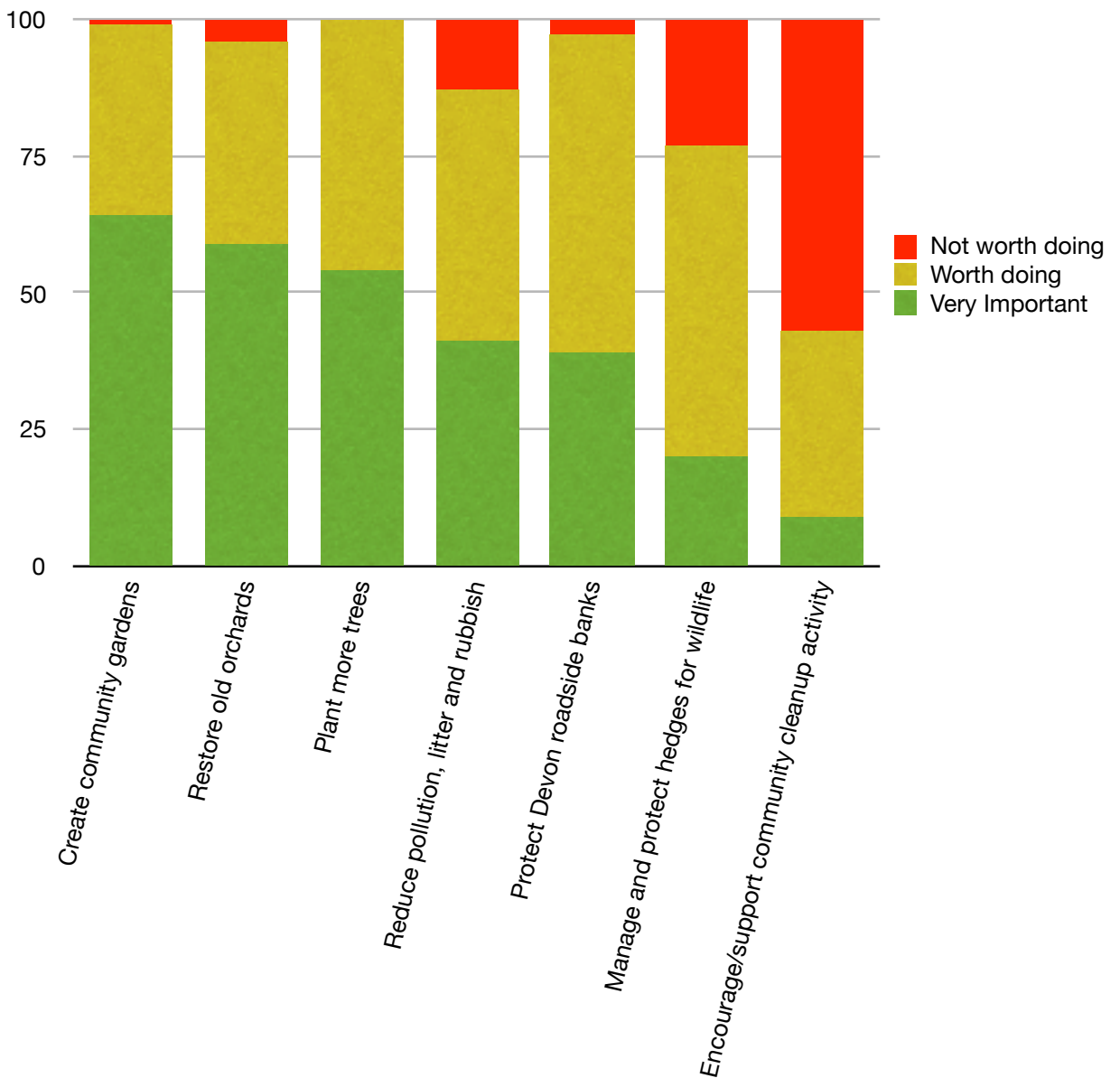




- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree



In order to protect and improve the environment, how important did they think it is to



Comments made in relation to the planning questions drew observations including -

‘I would like to retain look of conservation area but I don’t think new houses should stick rigidly to local style, be flexible if pleasing to eye.’

‘Just 1 house on land not great complex. Eg up the lane by Mardons. Decent family houses with a garden not on top of each other as in Okehampton.’

‘Any new development of fewer than 10 properties, should comprise a compact affordable housing scheme, open only to genuine inhabitants of Devon and never be available as second homes/buy-to-lets.’

‘Any new build property must be sympathetic to the nearest buildings, especially those period properties but not a pastiche of cob and thatch. (Reference some of the dreadful housing considered appropriate in Okehampton!!)’

‘Sheltered housing without adequate public transport provision may leave some new residents trapped at home.’

‘Make new dwellings fit aesthetics of Village.’

‘A small complex for elderly would be nice.’

‘Some affordable housing is must but needs to be done so we do not end up with them and us.’

‘Given our proximity to Sampford Chapple, Okehampton and North Tawton, even in 10 years there could be the risk of "urban sprawl" if any proposed development sites and their scale are not considered individually and with great care.’

‘New houses need to be of a similar scale (Stannary development, Chagford are 2-storey houses and dwarf the period properties adjacent!)’

‘Need more young families in the Village.’

‘Maintain good visual impact of Village.’

Re Planning design -

‘Not necessary to be too strict ‘

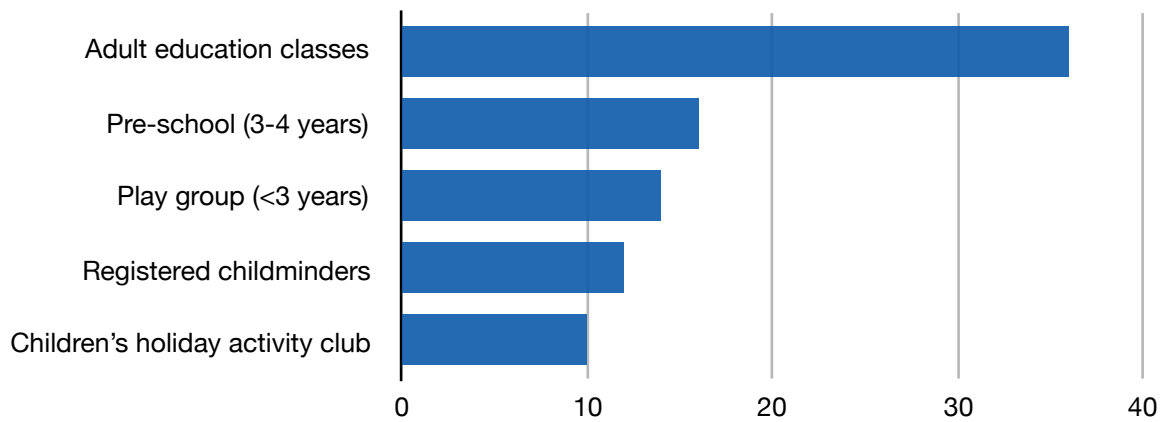
‘Insist on the use of solar panels on all new houses’

‘Don't miss out on interesting modern design by insisting on "faux chocolate box". Even cob and thatch was a new design once’

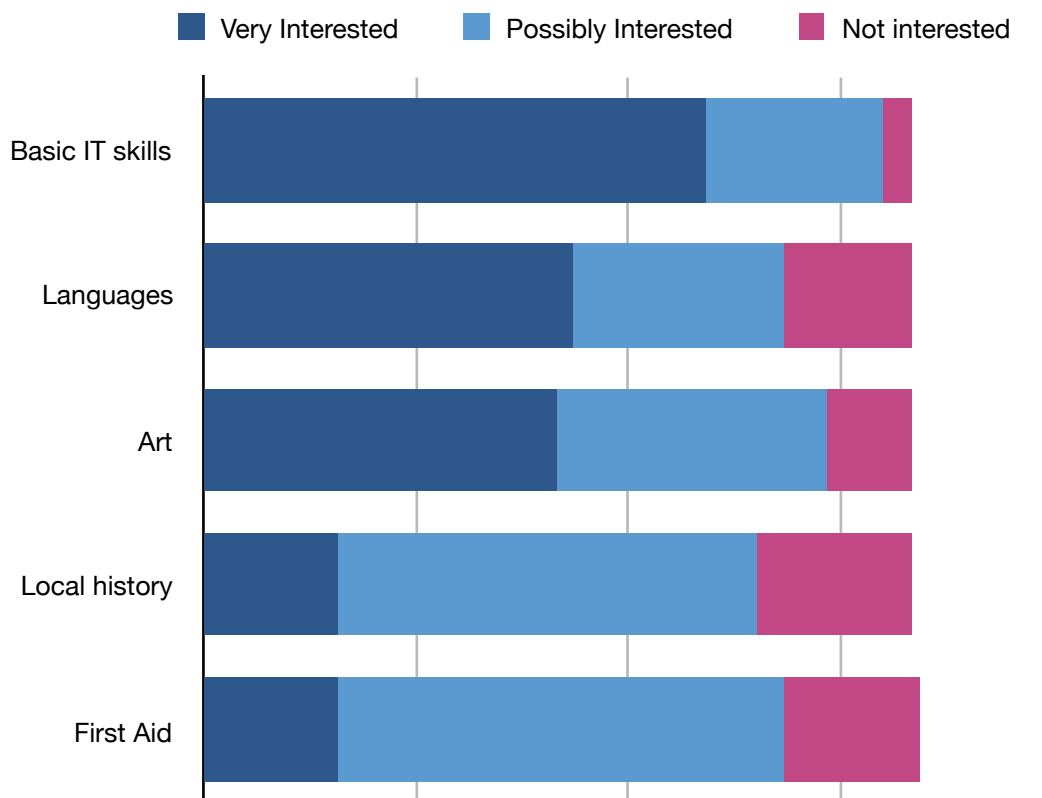
‘Sensitivity is required as is attention to the choice of design, scale and materials. Cost to any developer may be higher than otherwise might be expected!’

6. Education, health and wellbeing

Respondents were asked to consider whether although there is no school in the Parish, should the Parish introduce or increase any of the following?



Of the respondents interested in studying vocational or practical subjects, they indicated how interested they would be to take part in various subjects?



In addition respondents indicated that they would be interested in

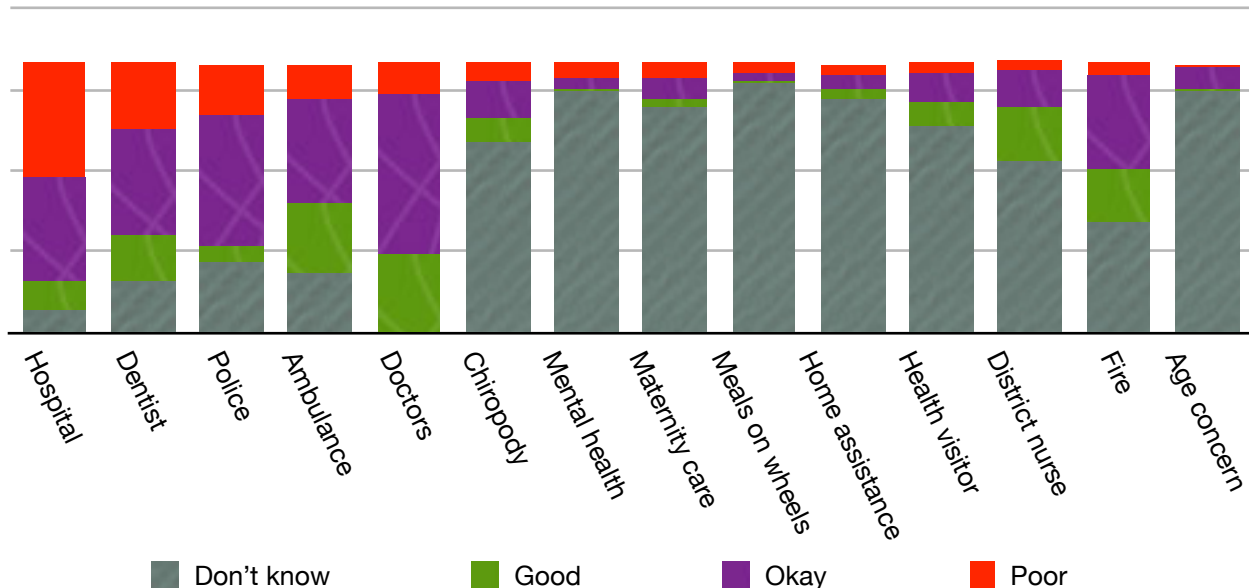
- ❖ gentle fitness / keep fit / pilates classes (particularly adapted for over 60's)
- ❖ Cookery Classes
- ❖ Photography
- ❖ Creative writing
- ❖ Genealogy

Whilst there was very little difference between the preferred timing or regularity of training sessions respondents indicated that weekly would be most convenient.

It was most likely that respondents would wish or be able to attend training sessions in the evenings.

Respondents were then asked about their satisfaction of local emergency services?

Quality of emergency services delivered to the Parish



When questioned about accessibility to health services only 14% of respondents indicated that they had problems in gaining access to some or all health services, however doctor's, dentist and hospitals were where there were issues highlighted.

With such a rural Parish the recent closure of the local hospital resulting in all routine and emergency medical appointments requiring a 70 mile round trip to Exeter, hospital services were judged the poorest.

With a lack of local doctors, ease of access due to long waiting times and our nearest hospital services being over 30 miles away, key issues such as transportation were highlighted as preventing access. It seems clear from results in the transport section that many do not use the local community transport services and that this should be more widely advertised in order to support access to appointments even where they are in Exeter. Recommendation 6 refers.

However a significant number of the respondents did believe that the current service was okay and met their needs. This could also be boosted by the belief that the ambulance service for the Parish met either an okay or good standard 64% of the time.

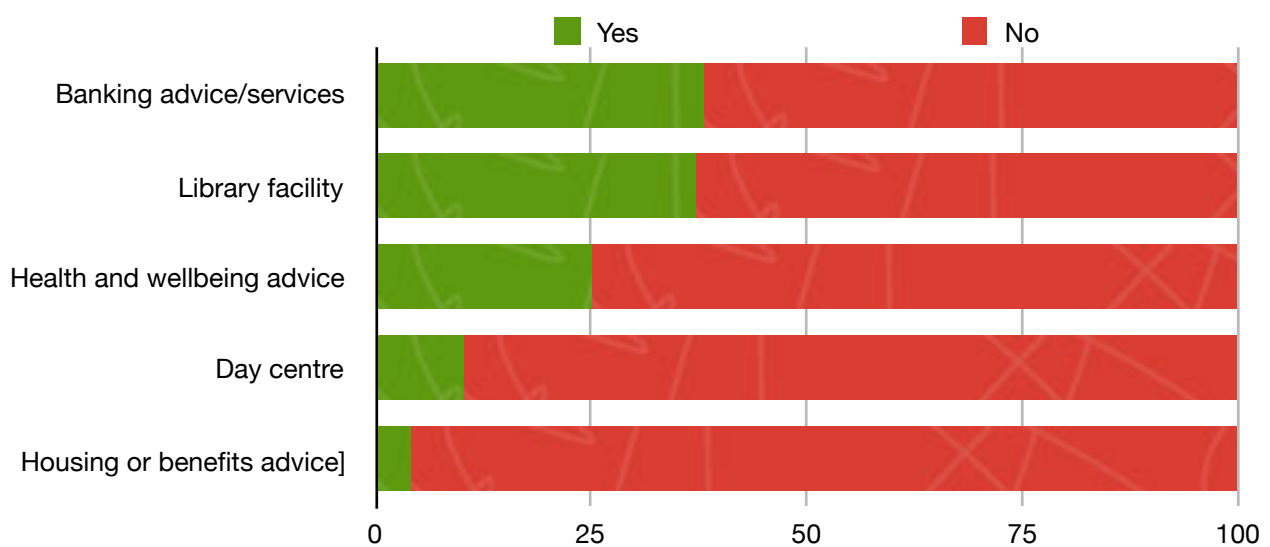
It is recognised that being a rural Parish will create challenges for remote services and at least one respondent reported very poor waiting times for an ambulance. With this in mind the need for a defibrillator was seen as a priority. Recommendation 5 refers.

Of significance in this question is the fact that in over 50% of the categories respondents had no knowledge of the effectiveness of the services. With 68% of the Parish proportionately older than 56 + you could conclude, although not exclusively, use / requirement for the services of District nurse, Meals on Wheels and Home assistance etc might be higher.

Further assessment would be required to understand whether we are fortunate that there is a lack of need at this time or a lack of knowledge to meet the needs of our residents?

As with other public services in rural areas access to council, banking and other support services have been withdrawn and becoming remote and computerised.

Respondents were then asked if a drop-in facility was available at published times in the Parish, would they use any or all of the following services?



It may be of benefit to link the opportunity for such a drop in centre, to other activities that already exist in the social activities of the Parish to encourage greater interaction and provide support as identified.

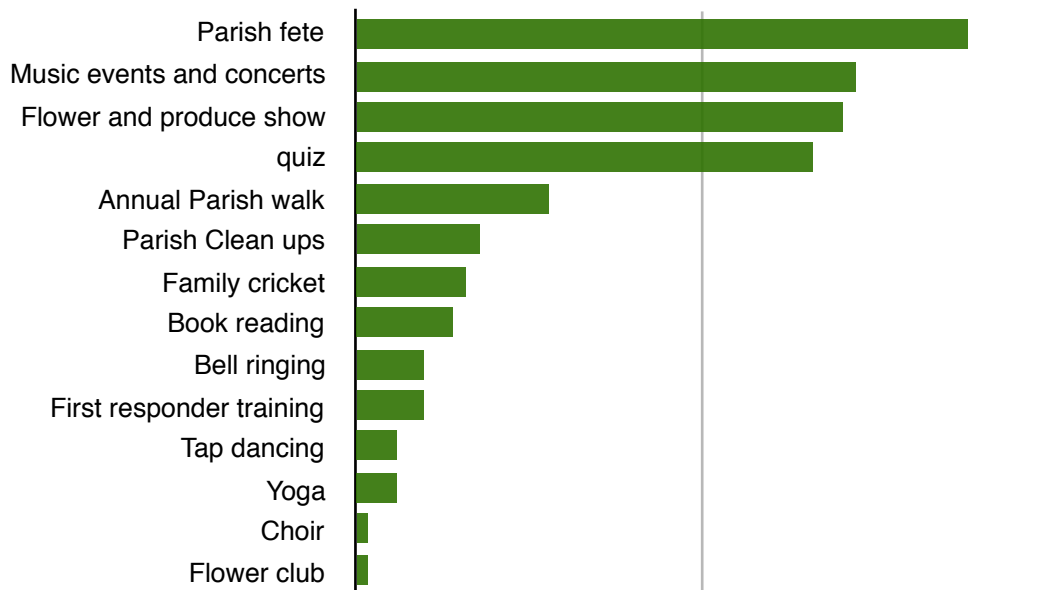
Greater understanding of Parishioners requirements needs to be achieved so that provision of support and services can be prioritised. Of note no-one highlighted any other services in this section that they felt would be of benefit locally.

An area that may help to address any need might be the support of basic on-line computer training. With more services reverting to on-line facilities greater confidence/ competence in the use of computers may assist those requiring support.

As previously mentioned is there truly no requirement? or is there a lack of knowledge of what might or could be available?

As previously indicated the most popular organised events centre around activities run by or through the village hall or local pubs.

Activities in the parish

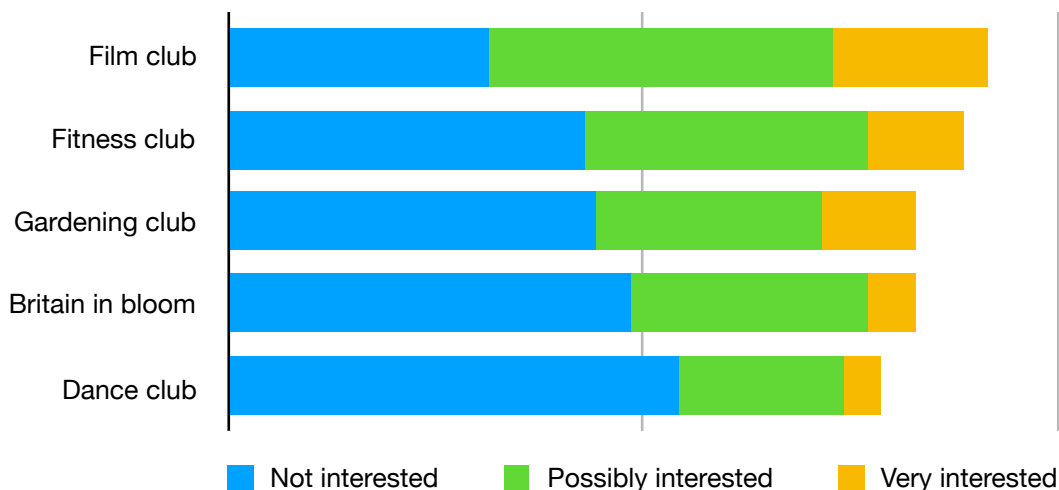


Other activities mentioned by respondents included -

- ❖ Bingo
- ❖ Grumpies
- ❖ Dog Show
- ❖ Table Tennis
- ❖ Themed evenings at the Pub

Looking to the future additional opportunities were considered -

Potential future activities to foster community spirit



Other new activities mentioned by respondents included -

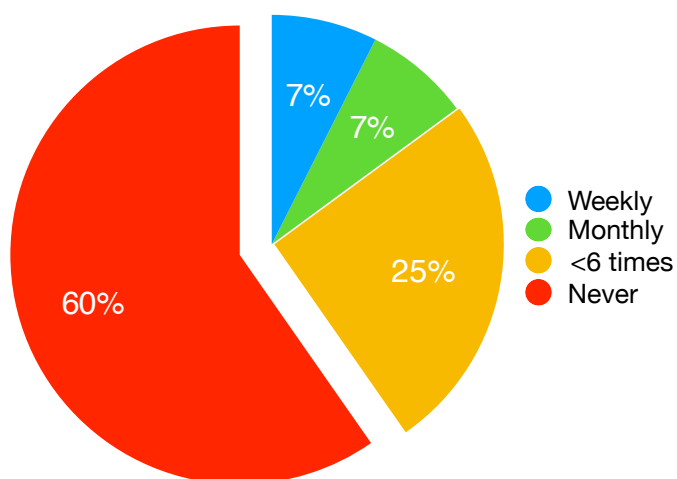
- ❖ Wood turning club
- ❖ Photography club
- ❖ Parish Bake Off
- ❖ Community band

7. Social activities and Parish amenities

It has already been acknowledged that events and activities arranged within the Parish are seen as one of its strengths. Greater social interaction supports thriving cohesive communities, not just day to day, but particularly at times of crisis. Encouraging both involvement in the organisation and participation of such events will make the Parish stronger and more sustainable in the future.

The results of current levels of interactions are displayed below.

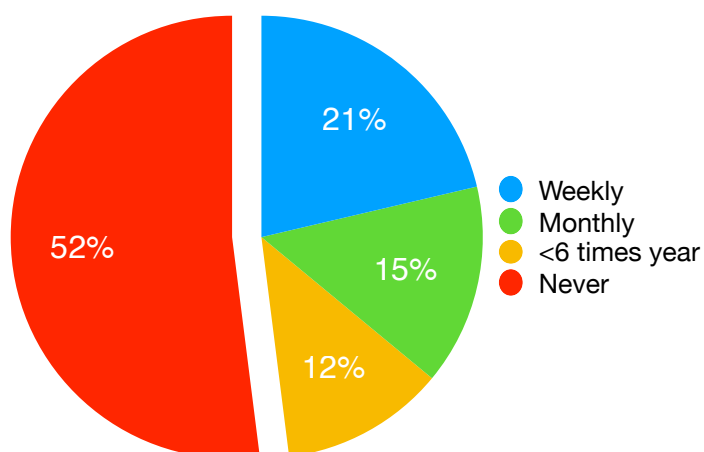
Help to organise social events & activities



The respondents confirmed (what is already acknowledged) that in the organisation of activities across the Parish, it falls to a smaller % of volunteers to organise all the events.

Greater recognition could be given to those that give their time, and often their expertise and/or trade skills which enable the events to run smoothly for the benefit of the whole Parish should they wish to take part.

Participate in social / organised events



It is pleasing to see that an increased number of respondents do take advantage of the activities and events that are arranged, but very little is known why over half never participate.

Some comments are helpful to understand what could be done to encourage greater interaction and attendance.

For example respondents stated -

“Do not wish to take part in activities arranged, find the hours unsuitable.”

“Have insufficient information.”

“Disabilities prevent attendance, access due to physical problems.”

“Have no transport.”

“Lack of time or work commitments.”

“Miss most due to travel.”

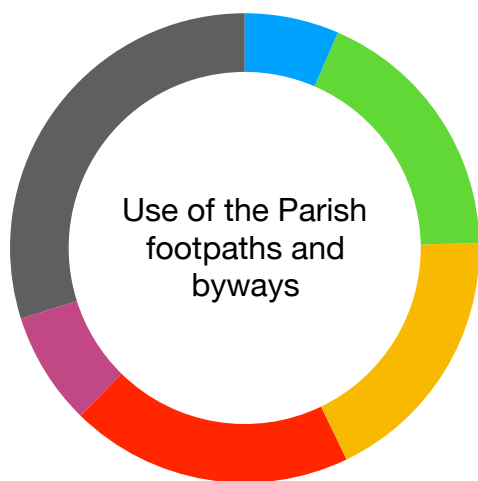
To ensure the sustainability and continuous improvement of the village hall facilities and activities Parishioners need to understand the financial targets required to maintain and achieve improvement and be aware of the Village Hall plans and how they as individuals can support fundraising.

Recommendation 8

Village Hall Committee to consider publishing a 5-10 year maintenance/improvement plan to explain the challenges faced. More information would assist to harness existing supporters, as well as seek new support from the whole Parish for the necessary fundraising. This could also link to Recommendation 4 to avoid duplication of efforts between the committees.

7.1 Parish footpaths and byeways

Seen as a clear attribute of the Parish there are miles of beautiful paths interconnecting lanes and ancient byeways, which have been mapped and are maintained.



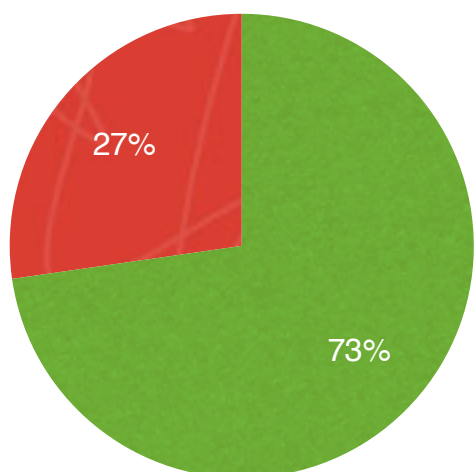
Whilst Parishioners are aware of this amenity a considerable number are currently not making regular use. There is a necessity to ensure that footpaths remain a prominent feature in the Parish and we are fortunate that significant effort has been attributed to this asset. With the continued support of DCC P3 grants this is achievable.

Opportunity does exist to enhance the footpath network further through registration with the British walkers Federation⁴.

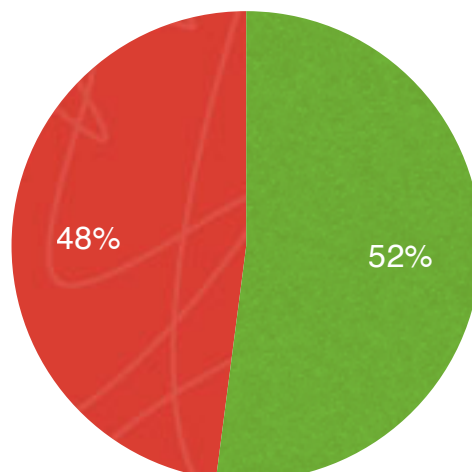
This would also support tourism in the area encouraging visitors to undertake historical walks within the Parish.

- Once a year
- Twice a year
- Monthly
- Weekly
- Daily
- Never

Awareness of the footpaths leaflet



Making use of the leaflet to explore the footpaths



- Yes
- No

Many of the respondents indicated that the footpath network could be enhanced through guided tours. The literature required for registration to the British Walking Federation requires clear self guided tours providing salient points and can include points of interest and significant relevance to the Parish.

As part of the development consideration should be given to identifying and reopening permissive paths, bridleways. Additionally all development should plan routes that are inclusive and support access for all, both in the maintenance and design that accommodate those less able bodied or with young children.

Recommendation 9

Parish council footpaths lead to seek registration with British Walking Federation and publish enhanced walking guides. This should then be linked to Recommendation 3 as a clear strength.

8. Other comments and observations

Themes that have come from the free text comments include -

Internet Issues

'Decent Broadband needs to be brought to the Parish similar to North Tawton and Exbourne. I am aware of a number of people who have decided not to move here because of very poor broadband speeds that would have allowed them to work from home.'

'Poor broadband speeds and frequent dropouts are deterring small business.'

'Poor internet connectivity detracts from Parish appeal'

'Completed the survey in paper form as the internet was so bad it wouldn't load'

'Poor internet would have had a significant impact on my remote education and others wanting to undertake open university etc would have difficulty in remote tutorials and webinars'

Public amenities

'Engagement of a part time lengthsman/woman to regularly remove litter and cans etc discarded from vehicles and the B.C.recycling truck would enhance the village'

'One of the main problems with many of the Parish footpaths is there is no parking nearby which means you have to walk quite a long way on country lanes with no pavement to reach them.'

'Unfortunately the green lanes have been turned into dog toilets.'

'Dog bins in the village green and change permission to allow dogs to run free there. Perhaps fence off the children's' play areas.'

'With ever decreasing funds available to the County Council perhaps the Parish Council should investigate the possibility arranging for more frequent cleaning of roadside gullies and drains to reduce the risk of local flooding, particularly during the autumn leaf drop.'

Safety issues

'Parish council should make as many representations to the police and Borough councils as possible because having observed the traffic (and it is all traffic - cars, buses and lorries) there is no doubt in my mind that one day there will be a fatality there. Please, don't wait for that to happen before something is done about it.'

Planning

'Wider involvement of Parishioners in proposing and planning village activities/events & plans for development/improvement of existing community facilities. '

Communication

'If possible, hold the occasional SCPC meeting or informal briefing/Q&A/surgery sessions at the New Inn; email Council agendas/minutes directly to opt-in subscribers to improve access/input to some extent.'

9. What next?

There will be an opportunity to hear an overview of the survey results at the Parish open meeting on 14th May 2019, but with such a detailed report take time to read and consider the findings.

There is then another opportunity to have your say on the survey report and give your thoughts on the suggested recommendations. Please use the link to complete the feedback sheet.

<https://forms.gle/uD32o9LiNvQqFTMw9>

List of recommendations

No	Recommendation
1	Parish Council to complete a further consultation exercise within the Parish to gather evidence of current needs and future internet requirements in order to set out action to meet those needs both for individuals and businesses. Considering the recent Universal Services Obligation set out by the government ¹
2	<p>Create and encourage use of a mailing list via the Sampford Courtenay Website, that Parishioners can opt into and unsubscribe from. This should be set up with policy to ensure compliance with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and be formulated so that requests from the Clerk / Secretary of all Parish groups can use to facilitate enhanced communications.</p> <p>(Note. It should be clearly understood that this is just one way that communications will be enhanced and for those not able to subscribe alternative means of communications will still be available.)</p>
3	<p>Consider a SWOT³ analysis of social, economic and environmental impacts of tourism and small business development in the Parish.</p> <p>This should be linked to and involve representatives of the Church Committee in respect of their historic assets within the conservation area.</p>
4	Consider options that create a collaborative approach between all Parish committees and the Parish Council to increase funding opportunities, strengthen sustainability particularly for all property assets in the Parish.
5	Continue with fund raising initiative through the SCPC Just Giving page and fund raising events to meet the £999 target by December 2019.
6	Through Parish Council comms strategy ensure Community Transport Scheme is publicised fully to encourage increased use
7	Parish Council to create and lead a Parish road safety group involving Parish volunteers to implement a road safety action plan considering the options and proposals suggested by respondents.
8	Village Hall Committee to consider publishing a 5-10 year maintenance/improvement plan to explain the challenges faced. More information would assist to harness existing supporters, as well as seek new support from the whole Parish for the necessary fundraising. This could also link to Recommendation 4 to avoid duplication of efforts between the committees.
9	Parish council footpaths lead to seek registration with British Walking Federation and publish enhanced walking guides. This should then be linked to Recommendation 3 as a clear strength.

References

- ¹ Universal Services Obligation - (USO) for broadband in 2020. That USO is due to be set at 10 megabits per second (mbps): the download speed which the regulator, Ofcom, considers necessary to undertake basic online activities efficiently. Premises which cannot achieve this threshold will be able to request an infrastructure upgrade so they can achieve at least that speed.
- ² Rural Services Network - national champions for rural services, ensuring that people in rural areas have a strong voice.
- ³ SWOT - Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats
- ⁴ British Walking Federation - <http://www.bwf-ivv.org.uk/National%20Trails/national%20trails.html>